

□ PEARSON COLLEGE – ADVENTURE IN LEARNING □



and second-year students. There is generally a Canadian in each four-bed room, and room assignments are made with the idea of mixing nationalities and

Every September, 100 new students take their places for a two-year course preparing them for the International Baccalaureate examinations. These may be written in English, French or Spanish, and the IB diploma is accepted by some 600 universities in 46 countries as an entrance qualification.

The Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, situated 29 kilometres west of downtown Victoria, was founded in 1974 as the second United World College; there are now six. The first, the College of the Atlantic, opened its doors in Wales in 1962 with the aim of educating young people of different races and nationalities in an atmosphere of understanding and non-prejudice, and with an emphasis upon service to others. It was an experiment in “adventures in high endeavour”. Lester Pearson, Nobel Peace Prize winner and then Prime Minister of Canada, recognized the value of bringing young people together in a challenging environment “without regard to race, religion, or politics”. It became his dream to see such an institution in Canada, and the college on Vancouver Island stands as a memorial to him. Today many eminent Canadians support it as trustees and patrons.

Low-slung cedar buildings under tall trees blend into the landscape sloping down to Pedder Bay. Two hundred students occupy five “houses” — named

after their sponsors: Calgary, Japan, Victoria, East (a private bequest) and McLaughlin (the R. Samuel McLaughlin Foundation) — each with live-in “house parents”, who are married faculty members (some with children) available to the young people at all times.

The houses shelter roughly equal numbers of young men and women on separate floors, and all share the common room, which doubles as a classroom. Every house contains first

academic years; thus, the feeling of belonging to an international family begins on the very first day. Some faculty members live in staff quarters; some live off campus. Laboratories,

